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the
SFSDS

South Florida Swing Dance Society - Swing, Shag, Push, Whip & Lindy

Coming FL Events

2009 Calendar

- Tampa Bay Classic
11/5-8/09
- Sunshine State
Dance Challenge
11/26-29/09
- Floorplay
New Year's Swing
Vacation
12/31/09-1/3/09

SFSDS Contact Information

Visit Our FaceBook Page
Visit www.sfsds.com

10-09 Edition



Jerry Siebe, DJ & Pro - Dance Till You Drop Pro's

Pragmatic Dance Tips

Reprinted and Adapted from GottaDance.com

Swing folks are friendly around here, and typically change partners almost every song -- although you certainly don't have to! We have put together a few practical tips, mostly related to partner-changing, based on what we've observed of

Dances – See Details on Our Web Site(s)

Dance Moves
Every Friday

Lauderdale-By-The
Sea

Mirror Ballroom
4th Saturday 10/24
Halloween Party

Lake Park, FL
Town Hall

Monthly Dance
3rd Saturday
10/17/09

German American
Club Hollywood, FL



Tips

Do this, don't do that...

Who may ask for a dance?

Both men and women may ask someone for a dance. The classical phrasing is "May I have this dance?" The contemporary wording is usually "Would you like to dance?" but anything even

Be specific – ask one person to dance...

Do not go up to 2 or more people standing together and ask, "Would either/one of you care to dance?" What will happen is each of them will hesitate and defer politely to the other, but you'll see it as total rejection. This is the

Voice of Experience (both ends) talking.



Timing: when EXACTLY to ask someone to dance...

...Normally, one asks at the beginning of a song. If you're a leader with only a few moves & worried she'll be bored by them, wait on the sidelines until

When to say "yes"...

Say "yes" - unless you don't want to. It's friendlier to say yes, and the dance is only 3 minutes, so it won't kill you. It's the 21st century and you are no one's slave.

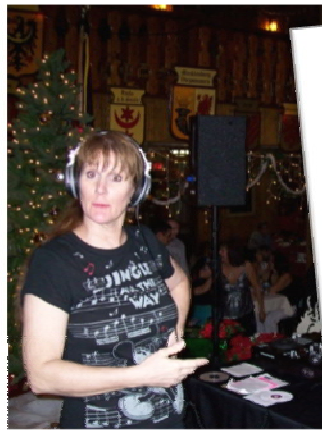
Etiquette strongly supports you in saying no if you've promised the dance to someone else already, if you are resting, heading for the water trough or if the person is dangerous or offensive to you in some way (physically, morally or olfactorily).

At some point, each





SFSDS Class w/ Pro Susan Marks



DJ Vicki Kay



SFSDS Dance 9-09

Pragmatic Dance Tips.... Continued

Physical Injury

If you are being maimed during a song, **stop dancing** and head for the sidelines -- even if it's the middle of a song. Say something along the lines of, "Gee, my shoulder suddenly seems to be hurting" if you are timid, or, if you are more straightforward, "Excuse me, but you've hurt my arm. I'm going to stop now."

And then walk away -- it's not a discussion;

it's not a negotiation; and you do not need permission or approval from the maimer to stop dancing with him/her.

Inappropriate Body Contact

Same principle applies **if you are being fondled** in ways you dislike: **stop dancing**, say something to the person, and head for the sidelines.



SkyBar Margarita

1/2 oz lime juice

1 oz Grand Marnier

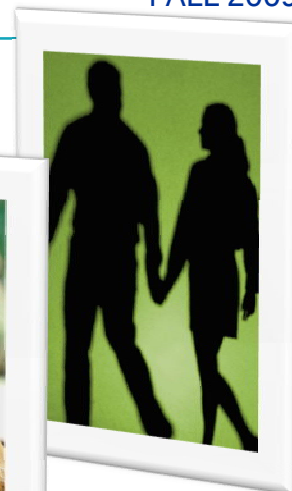
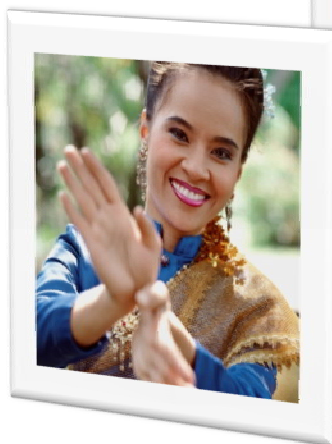
1 1/2 oz of Don Julio Reposado

1 fresh strawberry (*not* a lime)

Place all ingredients in mixing glass and shake and strain over ice

When the song ends

Applaud the DJ/Band every time (many people rudely forget), **thank your partner** with something like, "Thanks for the dance!" Traditionally, walk your partner back to the sidelines. However, the time for finding a new partner between songs is so short these days that most partners prefer that you skip this bit.



How many songs in a row?

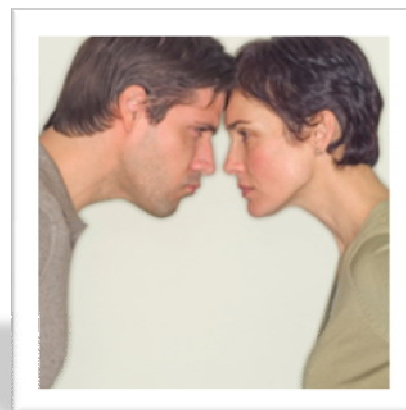
Dance one song with someone then change partners. Maybe two in a row...but not more than that.

...Unless you are there to practice with a partner. Stay out of the mainstream and let others who ask you to dance know what you're doing so they don't keep thinking you're available.



How to say "No..."

If you want to say no to someone who asks you to dance, do so. You do not have to give reasons. Something like, "No thank you, not just now..." works fine. (You can keep saying it all night if you have to.) Add a smile to cushion the blow. Then wait out the whole song (classic) -- or at least 20 seconds (modern) -- before you dash onto the dance floor with someone else.



When someone says "No..." If someone says no, take it graciously. If an excuse is offered, accept it - either the excuse is true or it's because of you personally. If it's personal, do you really know about it? Just assume that the excuse is true. If someone declines 3 times without a counter-offer, such as "next song, okay?" Forget it...and dance on...



Why can't some dance clubs (bars, lounges, etc.) that allow dancing by patrons survive?

It seems they often don't, closing for one reason or another, but usually financial in nature. In other words, they don't make enough money. Let's face it, dancers often don't drink that much.

It seems like they come to dance instead of drink. So, if the club has little revenue inside the club, (sales of drinks, food etc.) where does

necessary revenue come from? The dreaded "cover charge." What else is there? The club has fixed, non-negotiable expenses - rent, utilities, staffing, security, insurance, perhaps a maintenance contracts, who know what else? Dance clubs nationwide sometimes end up spending this aforementioned \$10 per person to

simply maintain their venues. When they attempt to provide the same quality of service in for less, their days are often numbered. So the estimate is \$10 per person per day.

To remain a "dancers" bar for you and your friends is expensive. To dance in a nice, safe

place to the particular, often one kind, of music you love, dancers must be willing to take part of the financial responsibility with the club owner.

Although dancers sometimes don't drink alcohol,



there are those that do DRINK. Bar owners want their business. Dancers can impact the bottom line and be the cause of a venues success or failure.

So spend your money at your favorite dance club, hopefully you have a local one to support, and be grateful to have such a place to go dance. At Dance Moves we have:

- A private social dance club
- 1500 sq ft of hardwood dance floor & seating for 100
- Bottle club (bring your own alcohol)
- \$1 for a bottle water, soda, and ice
- \$1 for chips and/or sandwich
- DJ nightly, playing all kinds of music (depending on which night)
- Excellent sound system
- Paved parking for 75 cars well lighted

All this is for what? \$10 each visit, Friday Nights every month and additional opportunities to dance 7 days a week. Right now we have 401 members. Come by and dance

South Florida Swing Dance Society Who We Are & What We Do

We promote dancing, dance education and fellowship within the South Florida Swing Dance Community and we encourage cooperation and cohesiveness among our dance professionals and venues. This month's events include:

- Club Dance
- Mirror Ballroom Halloween Party

Come Dance With US!



South Florida Swing Dance Society

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